

Board of Selectmen Meeting (Special)

January 20, 2016 at 7:30pm

Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: First Selectman Nina Daniel; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Selectman Chris Spaulding; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Randi Derene; Police Chief John Troxell; Lachat Town Farm board members: Carole Baldwin and Ellen McCormick, Weston residents.

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. The tapes are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

Ms. Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Troxell

Discussion/decision regarding the contract for Chief Troxell as reviewed by Town Counsel

Chief Troxell stated that his previous contract expired December of 2014. Ms. Daniel stated that she would like to finish reviewing the new 4 year contract with Town Counsel and have it signed by next week. Chief Troxell stated that the contract has been reviewed by the Police Commission and signed by Police Commission Chairman Bill Brady.

Discussion/decision to accept a donation of \$5000 for the Weston Police Department by Michael Offit

– Chief John Troxell Mr. Offit is a NY resident but is friends with one of the Weston Police Officers.

This money will be used towards the purchase of new bullet proof vests. Mr. Spaulding made a motion to accept a donation of \$5000 for the Weston Police Department by Michael Offit, Mr Tracey seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision to authorize withdrawal of up to \$45,000 from the Lachat Endowment Fund to complete the restoration of the farm house – Ellen McCormick and Carol Baldwin of the Lachat Town Farm Commission

Ms. Baldwin said that the purpose of the Endowment fund is to cover maintenance and renovation costs, and that the renovation of the farmhouse is being funded by sources other than Town funds. The total needed to complete the restoration is \$90,000, which would be paid in the following amounts: \$45,000 from the Endowment Fund; \$30,000 from the Friends of Lachat ; and \$15,000 in funds that were received as a grant for the replacement of the roof that was utilized for other purposes. Discussion followed in which Mr. Landry stated that in order to determine whether the \$15,000 fund amount was used for other purposes, he would need to research the issue. It was agreed that Mr. Landry would research the issue and provide an update to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Spaulding asked about doing another round of fundraisers. Ms. Daniel is in support of this project and is looking forward to having the farm completed and have it be an asset to the community. She has asked LTFC to present an operating budget going forward, showing they can be self-sufficient. Ms. Daniel made a motion to approve the withdrawal of up to \$45,000 from the Lachat Endowment Fund to complete the restoration of the farm house. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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Discussion/decision regarding approval of the green house project for Lachat Farm

Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the construction of the green house on the Lachat Farm property. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lachat Town Farm: update regarding a grant to finish the children's garden– Ellen McCormick and Carol Baldwin

Ms. McCormick stated that they have received a grant for \$8351 for the children's garden/greenhouse. This is a 40% matching grant. Mr. Tracey asked that somebody keep track of the accounting of these grants and the matching funds. Mr. Tracey made a motion to accept a grant of \$8351 from the CT Department of Agriculture Viability Grant . Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the Board of Selectmen granting hiring authority to the First Selectman.

Ms. Daniel explained that there is a new position to fill at Town Hall, a 15 hour/week job of an administrative floater. Mr. Tracey moved that according to the Town Charter Sec. 5.1(c) the Board of Selectman grant the First Selectman authority to hire an administrative floater. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision to authorize the First Selectman to sign and authorize a grant application to the Office of Policy Management for the restoration of Coley Cemetery. Mr. Spaulding moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign and authorize a grant application to the Office of Policy Management for the restoration of Coley Cemetery for \$2000. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Accept Keisha Fink's resignation from the Strategic Planning Committee effective immediately. Mr. Spaulding raised the question of whether the Board will fill the positions that are vacant on the Strategic Planning Committee. The issue will be addressed by the Committee Co-Chairs, Dennis Tracey and Jane Connolly. Ms. Daniel moved to accept Keisha Fink's resignation from the Strategic Planning Committee effective immediately. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/ decision regarding appointing Nicki Bleifeld as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2018 and appointing Carol Baldwin as a regular member of the Historic District Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2016, effective immediately. Ms. Daniel made the motion (as amended) Mr. Spaulding seconded. Mr. Tracey asked

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about the terms. Ms. Derene stated that she believes they stay in their current term but only their title changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Property Tax Refunds: Mr. Tracey moved to approve the property tax refunds for the total amount of \$3,232.68 as listed on the January 20, 2016 agenda. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VAULT TRUST	769.54
VAULT TRUST	410.07
DAILER TRUST	505.17
NISSAN INFINITI	293.01
CHASE AUTO FINANCE	420.59
CHASE AUTO FINANCE	834.3
Total	\$3,232.68

First Selectman's Update:

- a. **STEAP Grant:** Mr. Landry has applied for a STEAP grant for \$400,000 for renovation of the Police Dept. Ms. Daniel discussed the history of the Police Department and several ideas were discussed. Mr. Spaulding stated he would like to invite Police Commission Bill Brady, EMS president Jon Weingarten and Fire Chief John Pokorny to sit in on a meeting to discuss some of these plans.
- b. **Cemetery Grant: As discussed earlier :** see agenda item # 8
- c. **Cohen & Wolf Agreement:** This agreement was signed today with minor changes
- d. **Open Space Opportunities:** David Brant from Aspetuck Land Trust came to discuss possible open spaces in Weston that could be used to create trails that would connect with the Norwalk River Valley Trail. They are interested in purchasing a 38 acre Belknap Property. This property would be available for approximately \$500,000 and would allow Weston to connect to the Norwalk River Valley Trail on Danbury Road in Wilton.
- e. **WestCOG Update:** Heroin has become a very big problem in the state of CT and specifically in the Town of Weston. It is also an epidemic in Vermont. There is a plea to be conscious of this and to join the fight. Mr. Spaulding added that this will be a priority for the Children& Youth Commission and for our Police Dept. to interface with

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the schools and educate our children. Ms. Daniel mentioned another way to keep our children safe is the addition of an SRO Officer.

Discussion/decision regarding the approval of the Board of Selectman minutes from

December 22, 2015 Mr. Tracey moved to approve the Board of Selectman minutes from December 22, 2015. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The next Board of Selectman meeting is scheduled for February 4th, 2016

Adjourn: 9:11pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved: February 25, 2016